

GCSE Cold War knowledge organiser.

Name:

Class:



Big Questions: Key Topic 1

The origins of the Cold War, 1941-1958.

BQ1: What was the origins of the Cold War?

BQ2: What was the significance of the Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam Conference?

BQ3: Why did the war time alliance unravel between 1945-1946?

BQ4: How did the Soviet Union expand in Europe between 1945-1946?

BQ5: What was the significance of the US policy of containment?

BQ6: How significant was the Berlin Crisis (1948) in worsening relations?

BQ7: Why did an arms race develop between the USA and Soviet Union?

BQ8: Why did the Soviet Union invade Hungary in 1956?

The Soviet Union and the USA were allies in the fight against Hitler's Germany, but once the Second World War was over and there was no common enemy, the different political systems in the two countries made co-operation almost impossible. The communist Soviet Union and capitalist USA simply distrusted each other too much to remain on good terms. Instead they drifted into a 'cold' war.

The Cold War was not an open military conflict, but it did have many of the characteristics of traditional war. Military alliances were formed and huge arsenals of conventional and nuclear weapons were developed. Fortunately, those weapons were never used in any direct fighting. So the Cold War was limited to a war of words, fought through diplomacy, propaganda and spying.

In the closing stages of the Second World War, the USA, Britain and other allies had freed Western Europe from German occupation. The Soviet Red Army had taken control of most of Eastern Europe. This led to Europe being split in two, with a capitalist, democratic West and communist East.

In the years that followed, Stalin tried to win security for the Soviet Union by consolidating his control over Eastern Europe and, if possible, extending communism into Western Europe. At the same time, the USA gave support to Western Europe and worked to undermine communism in Eastern Europe.



GCSE History knowledge organiser: The Wartime Conferences, 1943-45

Grand Alliance

The alliance between the US, USSR and UK that defeated Nazi Germany in WW2

D-Day

The Allied invasion of north-western France in June 1944

United Nations

An international organisation set up to preserve world peace

Reparations

Compensation for damage caused during the war

Oder-Neisse Line

Part of the German-Polish border that ran along the Oder and Neisse rivers

Red Army

The army of the Soviet Union

Nov 1943

Feb 1945

Aug 1945



The Tehran Conference



- GB and USA agree to open up a second front by invading France in summer 1944
- USSR to attack Japan once Germany defeated
- UN to be set up after war
- Borders of post-war Poland to be moved westwards.

The Yalta Conference



- Germany and Berlin would be divided into four zones
- Declaration of Liberated Europe – countries liberated from Nazi rule would have elections
- Eastern Europe would be a Soviet 'sphere of influence'.

BUT – disagreement on amount of reparations and the exact location of the German-Polish border.

The Potsdam Conference



- Confirmed decision to divide Germany and Berlin into four
- Germany to be demilitarised, democratised, de-Nazified
- Germany to pay reparations to Allies – most of which to go to USSR
- Poland's border with Germany to be moved to the Oder-Neisse Line.

BUT – disagreement on how harshly Germany would be punished, and on free elections in Eastern Europe.



Josef Stalin
1922-1953



Franklin D. Roosevelt
1933-1945



Harry S Truman
1945-1953



Winston Churchill
1940-1945, 1951-55



Clement Attlee
1945-51



GCSE History knowledge organiser: The development of the Cold War

Buffer Zone

Stalin wanted to control Eastern Europe so it would protect the USSR from future invasion

Salami Tactics

The methods used by Stalin to establish communist control in Eastern Europe (eg: rigged elections, crushing opposition)

Iron Curtain

A metaphor for the line that divided Europe between the democratic west and communist east

Containment

The US policy which aimed to stop the spread of communism

1944-48



Soviet Expansion in Eastern Europe

Stalin wanted a buffer zone in Eastern Europe to protect USSR from future attacks

The USSR uses the Red Army and salami tactics to take over Eastern Europe 'slice by slice'

1946



Long & Novikov Telegrams

US diplomat, Kennan, wrote a telegram recommending firm action against the USSR's expansion in Europe

Soviet ambassador, Novikov, responded with his own telegram accusing the USA of seeking world domination

1946



Churchill's Iron Curtain Speech

Churchill gave a speech in the USA claiming that an 'Iron Curtain' now divided Europe.

Stalin saw it as deliberately provocative whilst it also helped to convince Truman of the need to be involved in European affairs

1947-48




Beginning of US Containment Policy

The Truman Doctrine was a policy of 'containment' – using US influence and resources to stop the spread of communism.

The Marshall Plan gave economic aid to help European countries recover after WW2. They would be less likely to turn to communism.

1947-49



Stalin tightens grip over Eastern Europe

Stalin responded to the Truman Doctrine by tightening his control over Eastern Europe. Cominform was set up in 1947 to coordinate communist party activities across Europe.

Comecon was set up in 1949 to allow the USSR to control the Eastern European economies and take their resources.



GCSE History knowledge organiser: The Berlin Crisis, 1948-49.

Economic Unit

One country with one currency

Deutsche Mark & Ostmark

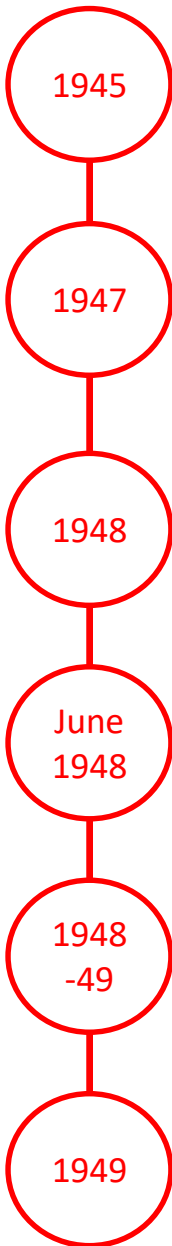
The German currencies that replaced the Reichsmark in 1948

Air Corridor

A part of airspace that aircraft must remain in when flying over a certain region

NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is an alliance of democratic countries who agree to defend each other against attack



Division of Germany and Berlin

At Potsdam the Allies agreed to divide Germany and its capital, Berlin, into four zones – American, British, French and Soviet. The idea was to treat Germany as a **single economic unit**. Differences quickly emerged over how to run the defeated country.

Creation of the Bizone

In January 1947 the British and American zones were merged together to create the 'Bizone' – the French zone joined the following year.

Introduction of the Deutsche Mark

In June 1948 the western allies introduced a new currency – the Deutsche Mark – to its zones. The Soviets felt this went against the agreement to treat Germany as a **single economic unit**.

The Berlin Blockade

In response the USSR introduced its own currency – the Ostmark – to the Soviet Zone and cut off road, rail and canal traffic in an attempt to starve West Berlin.

The Berlin Airlift

The Allies used the three air corridors to airlift supplies (4600 tons of supplies a day on average) to West Berlin over the following ten months. In May 1949 Stalin backed down.

Results of the Crisis

- First direct confrontation between the USA and USSR during Cold War
 - Confirmed it was impossible to cooperate over Germany – West Germany formed in late May 1949, East Germany formed in Oct
- Formation of NATO – US commitment to defence of western Europe



GCSE History knowledge organiser: The Arms Race

Arsenal:

A collection of military commitment and weapons.

Deployment:

Distribution of military forces within a given area.

H-bomb (hydrogen bomb)

An explosive weapon of enormous destructive power.

Nuclear weapon:

Highly destructive explosive device that gets its power from nuclear reactions.

NASA (National Aeronautical and Space Administration):

Agency in charge of U.S. science and technology related to airplanes or space.

1945



USA tested its first Atomic Bomb

US drop bombs on Japan to end war.

1949



USSR tested its first Atomic Bomb

Soviets respond by tripling scientists' pay.

Truman increases defence spending.

1953



Both develop Hydrogen bomb

Truman orders building of Hydrogen bomb.

Soviet test just months after US.

US test biggest ever hydrogen bomb on 1st March 1954 (equivalent 15m tons of TNT)

1957



USSR launch Sputnik into space.


Eisenhower founded NASA.

Expanded training for scientists and engineers.

US responds by spending on missiles by 20%.

Placed missile bases in Western Europe.

1959



Both sides have ICBMS

Both sides will recognise the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction



Josef Stalin
1922-1953



Harry S Truman
1945-1953



Dwight Eisenhower
1953 - 1960



Nikita Khrushchev
1953-1964



GCSE History knowledge organiser: The Hungarian Uprising, 1956.

De-Stalinisation:

Elimination of the influence of Stalin.

Warsaw Pact:

A military treaty and association consisting of the USSR and its European satellite states.

Reform:

To make changes for improvement in order to remove abuse and injustices


Secret police:

A police force that operates in secrecy against people acting against the state.

Liberal Ideas:


A belief in freedom and openness to change.

1953

 Death of Josef Stalin

Rakosi's rule in Hungary characterised by economic failure and terror.

1955


 Nagy replaced by Rakosi

Moscow orders Rakosi to be replaced by Nagy - a reformer.

USSR unhappy with liberal policies of Nagy. Replaced by Rakosi.

Increasing tensions with West leads to formation of the Warsaw pact.

Feb - Oct 1956

 Nagy returns to reform Hungary

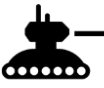
Khrushchev secret speech.

Rakosi forced from power by Moscow.

Nagy proposes reforms to economy, freedom of press, freedom of speech and **withdrawal from Warsaw pact**.

Student anti-communist protests.

Nov 1956

 Soviet invasion restores control.

Khrushchev orders **Soviet invasion** to retake control of Hungary.

USSR appoint Kadar to replace Nagy. **Nagy captured and later hung.**



Josef Stalin 1922-1953



Matyas Rakosi 1947-53, 55



Imre Nagy 1953-55, 56



Nikita Khrushchev 1953-1964

Big Questions: Key Topic 2

Cold War crises, 1958-70.

BQ9: Why was the Berlin Wall built in 1961?

BQ10: Why did tensions rise over Cuba, 1959-63?

BQ11: Why did the Soviet Union invade Czechoslovakia in 1968?

The events of the Hungarian Uprising in 1956 destroyed the co-operative atmosphere of the Geneva talks in 1955. International relations became ever more tense and strained in the following years and 1958-70 was the most difficult period of the Cold War. Crises in Berlin, Cuba and Czechoslovakia all added to the tension between the USA and Soviet Union.

Tension over control of Berlin and a mounting refugee crisis led Khrushchev to order the building of the Berlin Wall, creating a physical barrier between the East and West sides of the city. When the Soviets based nuclear missiles on the island of Cuba, within striking distance of the US mainland, tension between the Soviet Union and the USA was also increased when the Soviet Union sent tanks into Czechoslovakia, to stop reforms that threatened Moscow's control of the country.





GCSE History knowledge organiser: The Berlin Crisis, 1958-63.

Ultimatum:

A final demand attached to a threat.

Migrate:

To move from one place to another

Brain Drain:

The departure of highly skilled people from a country.

Espionage:

The act of organized spying, usually with the goal of uncovering sensitive military or political information.

Summit:

A meeting between people who are interested in the same subject.

1958



Berlin Ultimatum issued.

Refugee problem escalated to 20,000 a month leaving East Berlin for the West.

Khrushchev demands Western allies leave Berlin within 6 months.

1959 Khrushchev visit to USA.

USSR shoot down U2 spy plane and capture pilot.

1960



Paris Summit collapses.

Paris summit cancelled after US refuses to apologise.

Ultimatum repeated at Vienna summit.

JFK refuses. Both sides increase arms spending.

1961



Construction of the Berlin Wall.

Construction of Wall begins in August.

Khrushchev claims wall is to protect East Berliners.

1963



Kennedy visits Berlin.

Kennedy makes speech to 200,000 in West Berlin 'Ich bin ein Berliner.'



Nikita Khrushchev 1953-1964



Dwight Eisenhower 1953-1960



John F Kennedy 1960-1963



GCSE History knowledge organiser: Cuban Revolution and the Bay of Pigs

La Brigada 2506

The 1500 Cuban exiles trained by the CIA to invade Cuba.

Bay of Pigs

An inlet on the southern coast of Cuba

CIA

Central Intelligence Agency – the US agency responsible for intelligence-gathering

Sphere of influence

A region over which one country largely has control or influence

1959



Cuban Revolution

General Batista overthrown by Fidel Castro

1959-60



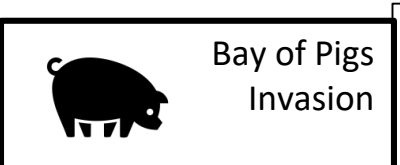
Castro turns to the USSR for help

USA banned the import of Cuban sugar in response to Castro's nationalisation of American companies in Cuba

Khrushchev, delighted to have an ally close to the USA, offered to buy the Cuban sugar.

Khrushchev also promised to send military assistance

1961



Bay of Pigs Invasion

1500 CIA-trained Cuban exiles (La Brigada 2506) landed at the Bay of Pigs with the aim of toppling Castro.

20,000 men from Castro's army fought back and defeated La Brigada

1961-62



Military build-up in Cuba

Castro declared his conversion to communism

Soviet technicians began to install ballistic missiles

U2 spy plane photographed Soviet missiles on the island of Cuba



Nikita Khrushchev
1953-1964



Fidel Castro
1959-2008



John F Kennedy
1960-1963



GCSE History knowledge organiser: Cuban Missile Crisis

Quarantine:

US navy ships to prevent Soviet ships carrying military equipment to Cuba.

Brinkmanship:

To push a situation to the point of disaster without quite going over the edge.

ICBM:

A nuclear missile capable of being fired from one continent to another.


IRBM:

A nuclear missile capable of reaching Los Angeles from Cuba.

ExCom:

A group of 12 expert advisers created by JFK and led by his brother Robert.

16th - 21st




Missiles found on Cuba.

US spy plane photographs reveal Soviet IRBM missiles on Cuba.

JFK convenes ExCom to discuss response options including invasion and airstrikes.

22nd - 24th



Naval blockade of Cuba.

JFK announces quarantine of Cuba on television and demands NK remove the missiles.

US armed forces placed on high alert. ICBM response prepared.

26th - 27th



Khrushchev's two letters..

NK sends letter offering to remove missiles in return for promise not to invade Cuba.

Second letter adds condition that USA must remove missiles from Turkey.

28th



Deal ends crisis.

US spy plane shot down over Cuba.

JFK accepts second letter and ignores first. Warns invasion if refused.

NK accepts offer. JFK agrees to remove aging Turkish missiles in future.



Nikita Khrushchev 1953-1964



Fidel Castro 1959-2008



John F Kennedy 1960-1963



De-Stalinisation:

Elimination of the influence of Stalin.

Prague Spring:

A short time in 1968 when the Communist government allowed people to have more freedom than before.

Reform:

To make changes for improvement in order to remove abuse and injustices

Secret police:

A police force that operates in secrecy against people acting against the state.

Brezhnev Doctrine:

A policy which stated the USSR had the right to intervene in places where communism was threatened.

1967




Rejection Of Novotny

Stalinist ruler Novotny refused to reform and oversaw economic decline.

Dubcek and other reformers appealed to Brezhnev to act.

Jan-Aug 1968

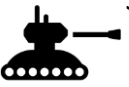


Dubcek's Prague Spring.

Dubcek replaced Novotny and introduces 'socialism with a human face.'

Reforms to freedom of speech, democracy, secret police, trade unions and travel restrictions.

Aug 1968




Soviet invasion restores control.

Closer relations with West Germany and anti-communist protests concerned USSR.

Fellow bloc leaders feared possible **withdrawal from Warsaw pact.**

Warsaw Pact agrees to **Soviet-led invasion.**

Nov 1968



Brezhnev Doctrine Established.

Brezhnev announced that USSR would suppress any attempt to relax Communist control.

USSR appoint Husak to replace Dubcek. **Dubcek resigned and made ambassador to Turkey.**



Antonin Novotny 1953-68



Leonid Brezhnev 1964-82



Alexander Dubcek 1968

Big Questions: Key Topic 3

The end of the Cold War, 1970-91.

BQ12: Why was a policy of détente followed in the 1970s?

BQ13: Why did the Soviet Union invade Afghanistan in 1979?

BQ14: Who was Reagan and what was the 'Second Cold War?'

BQ15: Who was Gorbachev and what was his new thinking?

BQ16: Why did the Soviet Union collapse in 1991?

The events in Berlin, Cuba and Czechoslovakia in the 1960s had highlighted just how far apart thinking was in Moscow and Washington. But one area where there was agreement was that the nuclear arms race threatened the future of mankind. This is one reason why the 1970s saw an attempt to improve relations through a policy known as détente. By the end of that decade, however, relations had once more deteriorated to a point where there was a 'Second Cold War' as President Reagan took a much tougher approach towards the Soviet Union.

When Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet leader in 1985, he realised that his country could no longer afford the cost of the nuclear arms race and that radical changes were needed to how the Soviet Union was governed. Little did he realise that his policies would bring about, not only an end to the Cold War, but also the break-up of the Soviet Union.





GCSE History knowledge organiser: Détente in the 1970s



Leonid Brezhnev
1964-82



Richard Nixon
1969-74



Gerald Ford
1974-77

Cease-fire:
a state of peace agreed to between opponents so they can discuss peace terms

Arms control:
a limitation on the size and armament of the armed forces of a country

Cooperation:
Working together to achieve shared goals.

Helsinki Agreements:
an agreement signed by 35 nations that committed states to fulfill obligations on security, cooperation and human rights.

May
1972



Arms Control Agreements

Nixon becomes first President to visit Moscow in 1972.

Arms talks result in SALT I being signed in 1972 limiting production of nuclear weapons.

Oct
1973




Middle East Tensions

Superpowers support opposing sides in Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur War.

Ceasefire agreed through United Nations.

July
1974



Superpowers agree mutual benefits

Nixon visit to Moscow leads to consensus that attempts should be made to further cooperation in all areas.

Second stage of Arms talks begin (concludes with SALT II 1979)

July
1975



Superpowers lead global cooperation

Helsinki Agreements mark commitment to collaborate on international issues with in July 1975.

Apollo-Soyuz mission sees symbolic handshake in space.

Dec
1979



End of detente

USSR invades Afghanistan to support unpopular communist regime

US condemns the invasion – brings about a Second Cold War



GCSE History knowledge organiser: Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, 1979.



Leonid Brezhnev
1964-82



Jimmy Carter
1977-81



Hafizullah Amin
1979



Babrak Karmal
1979-1986

Fundamentalism

Strictly following a religion or belief

Mujahideen

Islamic rebels who fought against the Afghan communist government

Jihad

Holy war - a struggle or fight against the enemies of Islam

Carter Doctrine

It stated that the USA would use military force if necessary to defend its national interests in the Persian Gulf

Boycott

Abstaining from something in order to protest

1978



Communists take power in Afghanistan

In April 1978, Afghan communists seized power and Taraki became Prime Minister of Afghanistan.
Thousands of Islamic religious figures and intellectuals were imprisoned and murdered.


1979



Growth of Islamic fundamentalism

In September Amin seized power from Taraki but the anti-Muslim policies made the government even more unpopular.
Thousands of Afghan Muslims joined the mujahideen which declared a jihad against Amin and his government. Brezhnev wanted to prove that there would be no changes to the way the USSR was run.

Dec 1979



Soviet Invasion

In late December 1979, 50,000 Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan to prop up the unpopular communist regime.
Amin was executed and replaced by a Soviet puppet leader - Kamal. Many Afghan soldiers deserted the army to join the mujahideen. The cost of the invasion for the Soviets was huge - \$50bn overall

Jan 1980



The Carter Doctrine is announced

US President Carter was forced to take a tough approach to the USSR so announced the Carter Doctrine.

1980



End of detente

Carter's response brought an end to détente.
The US and 61 other countries boycotted the Moscow Olympics in 1980. Carter asked the US Senate to reject SALT II and then cancelled shipments of grain to the USSR
The USA would train and assist the mujahideen (Operation Cyclone)

Beginning of Second Cold War



GCSE History knowledge organiser: The Second Cold War.

Gerontocracy

Rule by the elderly – this refers to a period in the early 1980s when the USSR was ruled by old and frail leaders

Solidarity

A Polish trade union which was banned in 1982.

Neutron Bomb

A type of nuclear weapon which maximises lethal radiation while minimising the physical power of the blast itself.

Nuclear Utilisation

Target Selection (NUTS)

A strategy of bombing the enemy's missiles, rather than their cities, to destroy their nuclear weapons capabilities.

1979



Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

In late December 1979, 50,000 Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan to prop up the unpopular communist regime.


1980



Carter's Response

Carter announced the Carter Doctrine and a host of measures that brought détente to an end, such as the Olympic Boycott (1980) and the refusal to ratify SALT II.

1980



Election of Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan won the 1980 election and took a tough line against communism with rhetoric such as calling the USSR an 'evil empire'. Reagan increased US military spending to \$1trn. Reagan also gave secret assistance to the Polish trade union, Solidarity

1983




Strategic Defence Initiative announced

Reagan announced SDI (nicknamed Star Wars) which was a plan for a missile defence system which, using lasers and mirrors, would shield the US from Soviet missiles.

Due to economic and technological barriers, the USSR could no longer compete in the arms race.

1980-85



Gerontocracy in the USSR

Soviet leaders Brezhnev, Andropov and Chernenko were all old and frail in the early 1980s. This made it difficult for them to take part in the kind of face-to-face meetings that had allowed détente to occur in the 1970s.



GCSE History knowledge organiser: Impact of Gorbachev's new thinking

Glasnost

'Openness' – this meant allowing free speech, some elections, and removing some censorship

Perestroika

'Restructuring' – this meant making changes to the Communist Party and the Soviet economy

Sinatra Doctrine

The nickname given to Gorbachev's policy that the USSR would no longer interfere in the affairs of Warsaw Pact countries.

The INF Treaty (1987)

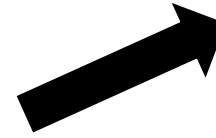
This breakthrough treaty eliminated the intermediate-range class of nuclear weapons. 2700 were destroyed by 1991.



Mikhail Gorbachev, 1985-91

I want the Soviet Union to survive but we need to save money and improve superpower relations. I have some ideas!

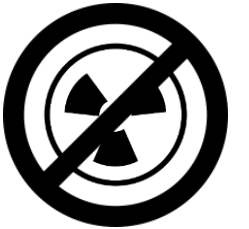
- Glasnost (openness) & Perestroika (restructuring)
- End the arms race (to save money)
 - Sinatra Doctrine



Glasnost meant that dissidents were released from prison and banned books published. This allowed free speech which meant that criticism of Gorbachev, and the Communist Party, could spread.



A number of summits gradually led to agreements on nuclear weapons. The most significant was the INF Treaty (1987)



Gorbachev rejected the Brezhnev Doctrine and accepted that Warsaw Pact members could make changes without expecting interference.





GCSE History knowledge organiser: Collapse of the Soviet Union

Negotiated Revolutions

This refers to the relatively peaceful revolutions in Poland and Hungary that occurred with the agreement of the ruling communists.

Sinatra Doctrine

The nickname given to Gorbachev's policy that the USSR would not interfere in the affairs of Eastern Bloc countries anymore.

Two-plus-Four Treaty (1990)

A treaty where the four occupying powers (USA, GB, France and USSR) gave up their rights over Germany allowing it to become a sovereign, reunited nation.



Boldened by Gorbachev's reforms, Poland held elections with the agreement of the ruling communists. Solidarity won and Mazowiecki became the first non-communist Prime Minister in the Eastern Bloc.

Hungary opened its border with Austria. There was now a hole in the Iron Curtain so many East Germans used this opportunity to flee to the west – the Berlin Wall was now useless.

USSR confirmed that the countries of Eastern Europe could do things 'their way' without interference.

Gorbachev had already accepted this *informally* in 1988.

Events in Hungary made the Berlin Wall obsolete. Huge demonstrations occurred in East Germany (1m people on 4 Nov).

East German government forced to announce greater freedom of travel.

On 9 Nov thousands descended on the border between East and West Berlin and began to dismantle the Berlin Wall.

Over 1m people a day seized the chance to see relatives and friends.

Velvet Revolution – Huge demonstrations against communist rule in Czechoslovakia led to the government's resignation. Havel became the first non-communist President of Czechoslovakia since 1948. Elections then held.

Romanian army turns on, captures and executes President Ceausescu and his wife. Elections held in 1990.

Bulgaria hold elections in 1990.

With the downfall of the East German government, elections were won by parties promising German reunification.

Eventually a unification treaty was signed and West Germany absorbed the *Lander* of East Germany on 3 Oct 1990.

Under the Two-Plus-Four Treaty the four victorious powers of the WW2 waived their rights with regard to Germany, thereby granting the Germany full sovereignty.



GCSE History knowledge organiser: Dissolution of the USSR.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

The USSR was literally a union of 15 Soviet Socialist Republics – many of which were nations who came to demand independence.

August Coup

The attempt by communist hardliners – the Gang of Eight - to remove Gorbachev from power and undo his reforms

Gorbymania

The enthusiasm in the west for Mikhail Gorbachev following his reforms

Boris Yeltsin

The leader of the Russian part of the USSR, he was instrumental in defeating the August Coup. He later became President of the Russian Federation.

Union Treaty


A treaty that would have re-made the USSR into a country where its members were more equal in power, rather than being dominated by Russia. It was rejected after the August Coup.

1990

Oct 1989

Nov 1989

1989-90




Consequences of Gorbachev's Policies

Gorbachev's willingness to reform made him a hero in the west (Gorbymania).

However leading members of the Communist Party believed that Gorbachev's 'new thinking' had weakened the USSR.

Some of the Soviet Socialist Republics demanded greater independence – could Gorbachev allow the USSR itself to break up?




Nationalist Demands within the USSR

Having seen Eastern Europe enjoy their freedom, parts of the Soviet Union itself now demanded greater independence.

In 1990, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania declared independence from the USSR.

Gorbachev now faced pressure from two sides – hardline communists on the one hand, and reformers like Yeltsin on the other.



August Coup

In August 1991, communist hardliners known as the 'Gang of Eight' led an attempted coup against Gorbachev while he was on holiday.

This was defeated by the Russian people led by Boris Yeltsin (Chairman of the Supreme Russian Soviet) who jumped on a tank outside the Soviet building & made a speech to stop the coup.

Gorbachev returned to Moscow but his authority was shattered.



Gorbachev's Resignation and Dissolution of the USSR

Gorbachev's final attempt to save the USSR – a new Union Treaty – was rejected by the other republics.

The leaders of the other Soviet republics established a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

On 25 December 1991, Gorbachev resigned and the USSR ceased to exist within a few days. The former republics became independent.

How would I answer the exam questions?

Explain two consequences of... (8 marks)

Question 1: Explain two consequences of ... (8 marks).

Each consequence is marked out of 4 marks

Marks	Description
Level 1 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simple or generalised comment is offered about a consequence.• Generalised information about the topic is included, showing limited knowledge and understanding of the period.
Level 2 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Features of the period are analysed to explain a consequence.• Specific information about the topic is added to support the explanation, showing good knowledge and understanding of the period.

Key terms in the question

Explaining = different to describing. If you are describing, you only need to show that you understand what the topic in the question is by giving information about it. By explaining, you give reasons for something.

Consequence = something that happens because of an event, development or change. This could be a positive result or negative.

How do I answer the question?

- Underline key points in the question. This will ensure that you focus sharply on what is required.
- Begin each paragraph by stating the consequence. For example, 'One consequence of... was...'
- Use phrases like 'as a result', 'this led to,' 'consequently.'
- Give a fully developed explanation about the consequence including precise details.
- State the second consequence. For example, 'A further consequence of...was...'
- Give a fully developed explanation about the second consequence including precise evidence.
- Avoid vague sentences like 'this made tensions really bad.'

How would I answer the exam questions?

Write a narrative account of... (8 marks)

Question 2: Write a narrative account analysing the key events of ... (8 marks)	
You will be given two bullet points YOU MUST USE MORE...	
Marks	Description
Level 1 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A simple or generalised narrative is provided; the account shows limited analysis and organisation of the events included.Limited knowledge and understanding of the events is shown.
Level 2 3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A narrative is given, showing some organisation of material into a sequence of events leading to an outcome. The account of events shows some analysis of the linkage between them, but some passages of the narrative may lack coherence and organisation.Accurate and relevant information is added, showing some knowledge and understanding of the events. <p><i>Maximum 4 marks for answers that do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points.</i></p>
Level 3 6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A narrative is given which organises material into a clear sequence of events leading to an outcome.The account of events analyses the linkage between them and is coherent and logically structured.Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the key features or characteristics of the events. <p><i>No access to Level 3 for answers which do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points.</i></p>

Key terms in the question

A narrative = you need to show how one event led to another by sequencing and linking the events in your account clearly. Your account needs to have a beginning, middle and an end. You must also include information of your own e.g. not just the bullet points

How do I answer the question?

- Underline key points in the question. This will ensure that you focus sharply on what is required.
- Make sure you have a clear beginning, middle and an end.
- Support each point with clear and accurate information about the topic.
- If the question includes a date range, only include information from that period. Consider the whole of the time period in the question, not just part of it.]

How would I answer the exam questions?

Explain the importance of ... (8 marks)

In the exam you will answer two of these, from a choice of 3.

Question 3: Explain the importance of X for Y... (2 x 8 marks)	
Choice of 3 bullet points (answer 2 of the 3)	
Mark	Description
Level 1 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A simple or generalised answer is given, showing limited development and organisation of material.Limited knowledge and understanding of the topic is shown.
Level 2 3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">An explanation is given, showing an attempt to analyse importance. It shows some reasoning, but some passages may lack coherence and organisation.Accurate and relevant information is added, showing some knowledge and understanding of the period.
Level 3 6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">An explanation is given, showing analysis of importance. It shows a line of reasoning that is coherent and logically structured.Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the required features or characteristics of the period studied.

Key terms in the question

Explaining = different to describing. If you are describing, you only need to show that you understand what the topic in the question is by giving information about it. By explaining, you give reasons for something.

Importance = you need to analyse what difference the event, development or person made to what happened next. To do this, you will need to consider the consequences of the event, development or person's actions, and how and why these were significant for what followed

How do I answer the question?

- Underline key points in the question. This will ensure that you focus sharply on what is required.
- Identify what each question option is about 'the importance of X.'
- Identify the focus of each question option 'for/in/on Y'.
- Use phrases to show you are explaining the importance.
- Support your explanations with accurate and relevant information about the period.
- Structure your answer clearly, using PEEL paragraphs.

Wider reading and resources.



Something to read...

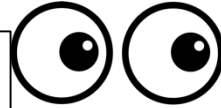
The Cold War, by John Lewis Gaddis

Checkmate in Berlin by Giles Milton

The Curtain and the Wall by Timothy Phillips

1983 by Taylor Downing

One Minute to Midnight by Michael Dobbs



Something to watch...

How to answer the exam questions

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ifn8bdPLvL4&list=PL0ifbTeFrUEuJbN5_nHFkN_EljALuLhw6

Origins of the Cold War

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl7BZUII91s&list=PL0ifbTeFrUESnfnRJWuXO8ZZREmKVIFpy>

Cold War crises

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s76SF8DJmag>

The end of the Cold War

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XT8NvEua5II>